

The Devil Has a Plot

but

God Has a Plan!

Acts 23

Romans 8:35-39

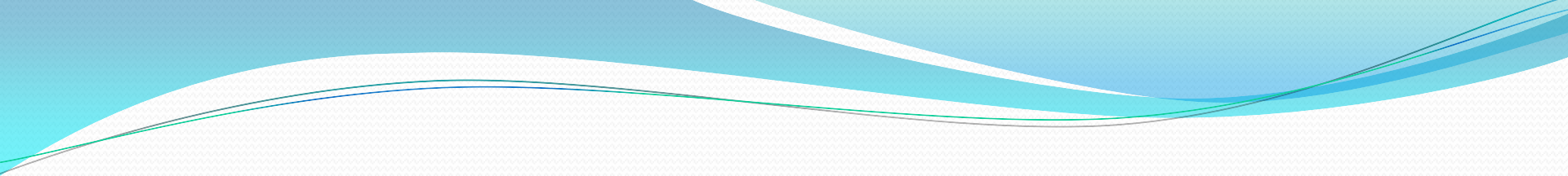
*“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

As it is written:

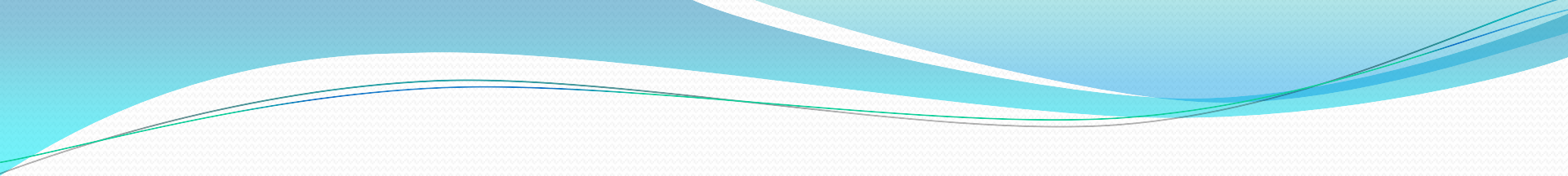
For your sake we are killed all day long;

We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors
through Him who loved us....*



.... *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life ,
nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor
things present nor things to come, nor height nor
depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able
to separate us from the love of God which is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

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- **If you are a leader, you especially have to live out your faith in God (Parent, Supervisor, Team leader, Career Professional), in situations beyond your control (illnesses, job mistreatment)**
 - **You have to be willing to “*practice what you preach*”**
 - **The apostle Paul, in his life, would have to practice what he preached to help us appreciate his message**
 - **We are called to practice Christianity during difficult times in our lives , Matthew 7:24-27**

What Did He Preach?

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28

“If ye love me you will keep my commandments.”

John 14:15

The Story

- In Acts 23 , chaos arose in the courtroom when Paul was before the Jewish Supreme Court (Sanhedrin Council) charged with teaching Christ and claiming that Jesus was Lord and King
- In verse 10, the Bible says that the uproar against Paul was so violent that there was a fear that Paul might be physically killed in the courtroom
- The Roman commander, in verse 10, ordered the officers to go in the courtroom and extricate Paul physically from the mob and put him back in prison for his safety

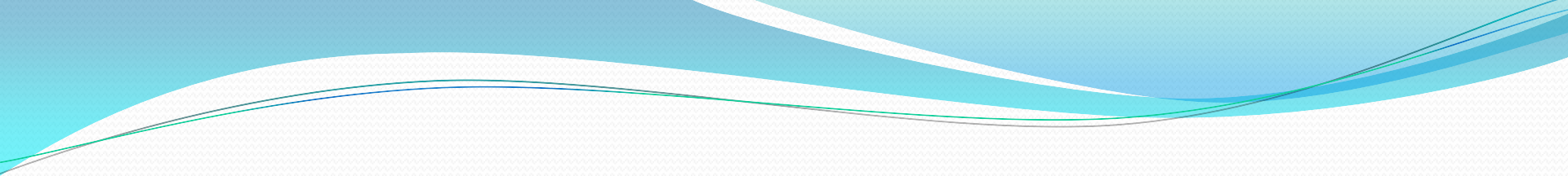
- Paul is now in a situation over which he has no control
- Other people will be meeting to decide Paul's fate
- The only thing that Paul had going for him was he was a faithful child of God (which meant nothing to those decision makers)
- The Bible says in verse 11 of chapter 23, ***“But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood by his side and said, “Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to my cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also.”***

Well, Those Were Not Satan's Intentions!

The Plot

“And when it was day, some of the Jews banded together and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul. Now there were more than forty who had formed this conspiracy.”

Acts 23:12



They came to the chief priest and elders, and said, “We have bound ourselves under a great oath that we will eat nothing until we have killed Paul. Now you, therefore, together with the council, suggest to the commander that he be brought down to you tomorrow, as though you were going to make further inquiries concerning him; but we are ready to kill him when he comes near.”

God's Plan

Proverbs 15:3

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.”

- **Remember that God knows Satan's plots of failure for you, but Satan doesn't know God's plans for you**
- **Notice in this story how God orchestrates His plan by involving Himself in Paul's affairs**

Acts 23:16

*“So when Paul’s Sister’s son heard of their ambush,
(who arranged that?)*

That’s why we need to religiously mentor our grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, to teach them how to watch out for Satan (like hypoglycemic reactions)

*...he went and entered the barracks
and told Paul....”*

Acts 23:17-22

“...Then Paul called one of the centurions to him and said. “Take this young man to the commander, for he has something to tell him.”

So he took him and brought him to the commander and said, “Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to bring this young man to you. He has something to say to you.”

This is What the Young Man Says!

Acts 23:20

And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask that you bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more fully about him. But do not yield to them, for more than forty of them lie in wait for him, men who have bound themselves by an oath that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him; and now they are waiting, for the promise from you (waiting for you to send him over).”

Watch What God Arranges For His Servant Paul's Protection From The Forty Haters! Acts 17:23-24, 31-33

“And he called for two centurions, saying, Prepare two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearman to go to Caesarea at the third hour of the night (be ready to go at 9pm tonight) And provide mounts to set Paul on, and bring him safely to Felix the governor.”

The Commander Even Writes an Official Letter to the Governor

Verses 26-30

“Claudius Lysias,

To the most excellent governor Felix:

Greetings.

This man was seized by the Jews and was about to be killed by them. Coming with the troops I rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman. And when I wanted to know the reason they accused him, I brought him before the council. I found out that he was accused concerning questions of their law,

... “but had nothing charged against him deserving death or chains. And when it was told me that the Jews lay in wait for the man, I sent him immediately to you, and also commanded his accusers to state before you the charges against him.

Farewell

What This Armed Escort Providentially Performed!



“Then the soldiers, as they were commanded, took Paul and brought him by night to Antipatris. The next day they left the horsemen to go on with him.

*and returned
to the barracks.*

*When they came
to Caesarea and had delivered
the letter to the governor,
they
also presented
Paul to him.”*



Why Did God Allow Paul To Go Through This Event In His Life?

...but we also glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance (patience); and perseverance character; and character hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5

What Do We Learn For Our Lives?

- The Devil has plots to destroy our lives, John 10:10, “*The thief comes only to steal and kill..*” 1 Peter 5:8 “*Be sober, be vigilant....*”
- God knows Satan’s plots for us, but Satan doesn’t know God’s plans for us, Romans 8:28, “*And we know that all things work together....*”
- We shouldn’t be “*ignorant of his devices*” 1 Corinthians 2:11. Satan takes advantage of **ignorance!** (so study)
- The key to living successful Christian lives whether they are Bible stories or **our** stories is :

OBEDIENT FAITH!

Hebrews 11:6

What About Rome? Didn't God Promise Paul Would Go To Rome?

- In Acts 24 he was tried by Felix, the Roman Governor of Judaea, who was in Caesarea
- In Acts 25 his case went to Porcius Festus, the man who succeeded Felix as Governor
- Festus ruled that Paul should have an audience with the Roman, Caesar, Acts 25:12
- Any guess where the Roman Caesar lived?
- Acts 28:16 begins by saying, “Now when we came to **ROME**, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.”

It is a True Saying:

***GOD TAKES
CARE OF HIS
OBEDIENT
CHILDREN!***

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38